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Weekly Rice Price Update

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Export prices trended downward as the Government plans to tender 3.0 million tons of 2001/02 – 2008/09 intervention stocks on May 6. Bidding prices are expected below \$500/MT, as exporters have to compete with Vietnamese rice. However, the decline of Thai domestic rice prices should slow as the Government will likely approve an expansion of the current MY2008/09 second crop intervention program from 2.5 million tons to 3.5 – 4.0 million tons in the May 6 Cabinet meeting.

General Information:

Indicative Prices (Week Ending May 4):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/MT)

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	840	880	840	850	840	830	-	847	849
WR 100 B	540	585	550	550	540	555	510	547	555
PB 5%	540	-	550	-	530	550	520	538	553
WR 5%	510	555	540	540	520	525	490	526	532
WR 10%	495	-	-	-	-	520	-	508	510
WR 15%	475	-	-	-	-	500	-	488	491
WR 25%	425	-	-	-	-	450	-	438	443
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	305	339	-	-	330	320	-	324	329
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Market Tone

Export prices trended downward as the Government plans to tender 3.0 million tons of 2001/02 – 2008/09 intervention stocks on May 6. Half of the tender amount is current MY 2008/09 crops, including 1.5 million tons of main crop and 0.5 million tons of second crop. Most of the rice (70-80%) is 5% grade white rice. Also, the Government will sell around 1.0 million tons of old-crop intervention stocks, most of which are MY2007/08 second crop (TH9068). Bidding prices for 5% grade white rice are expected to be below \$500/MT, as exporters must compete with Vietnamese white rice. However, the decline of Thai domestic rice prices should slow as the Government will likely approve an expansion of the current MY2008/09 second crop intervention program from 2.5 million tons to 3.5 – 4.0 million tons in the Cabinet meeting on May 6. Currently, MY2008/09 second-crop intervention program has already absorbed 2.3 million tons of paddy, most of which being white rice.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4 WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Mar 1	95,657	112,142	882	1,493	-40.9
Mar 8	100,463	108,140	983	1,680	-41.5
Mar 15	104,942	106,008	1,088	1,869	-41.8
Mar 22	82,621	95,921	1,170	2,075	-43.6
Mar 29	86,141	93,542	1,256	2,307	-45.5
Apr 2	105,037	94,685	1,362	2,489	-45.3
Apr 12	85,157	89,739	1,447	2,657	-45.6
Apr 19	55,543	82,969	1,502	2,736	-45.1
Apr 26	144,559	97,581	1,647	2,906	-43.3
May 3	142,632	106,980	1,789	3,042	-41.2

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice

exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Apr. 27 – May 3, 2009 totaled 142,632 tons, down 1,956 tons from the previous week, and up 35,652 tons from the four-week moving average of 106,980 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 - May 3 totaled 1,789,444 tons, as compared with 3,041,881 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Apr. 27, 2009, amounted to 2,602,447 tons, down 33.4 percent from 3,909,911 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr. 13-17, Apr. 20-24, and Apr. 27 – May 1, 2009 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr. 13-17	Apr. 20-24 (revised)	Apr. 27 – May 1
Weekly sales	83,450	124,732	104,405
4 week sum	504,787	518,849	525,103
4 week mov. avg.	126,197	129,712	131,276
Total weekly sales	1,946,912	2,071,644	2,176,049

End of Report.